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MRC Microbial Systematics Research Unit,
Leicester University,
Leicester, England.

19th May, 1965.

Professor J. Lederberg,
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Dear Josh,


Many thanks for your letter of 10th May. We are getting in touch with Dr. Quimby as you suggest and will look forward to getting papers of interest to us.

I am very much in favour of your suggestion of how exobiology should be organised. It is a method which is very novel in Britain, and I think it is high time that we began to think of radical reorganisations in the way we handle our science. Nevertheless, I would think there might be a lot of resistance to organisation on the lines you suggest! Still, I will do what I can to put forward this viewpoint!

Thank you for the information about the likely facilities of the Mars landing system. This will be a very useful guide in knowing how any national effort in space biology should be organised. We are in a somewhat difficult position in that the usual attitude is that we should not duplicate work that is being done in other countries, but by the same token it is often hard to find any suitable work to do. It may well be, however that renewed support of the electronic industry in Britain might mean that systems for automatic handling of data would be given official blessing. So I will let you know how things turn out.

I am looking forward to seeing part II of the DENDRAC report; it sounds most interesting.

Yours sincerely,



P.H.A. Sneath

SNEATH, P.H.A.